

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



Christmas Dawn Mass

Introductory Rites

Gathering Song

- 1 **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a Mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2 **He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

Greeting & Introduction

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Collect

Almighty God and Father of light,
a child is born for us and a son is given to us.
Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven
in the silent watches of the night,
and now your Church is filled with wonder
at the nearness of her God.

Open our hearts to receive his life
and increase our vision with the rising of dawn,
that our lives may be filled
with his glory and his peace,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading *(Luke 2: 1-20)*
The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So

Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly with the angel was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all who enjoy his favour".

Gloria

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo still their joyous strains.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
- 2 **Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
th'infant Christ, the new-born King.**

Scripture Reading *(continued)*

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
All kneel at the following words:
**and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist



Preparation of the Gifts

Music: For unto us a child is born – G.F. Handel

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord,
accept our gifts on this joyful feast of our salvation.
By our communion with God made man,
may we become more like him
who joins our lives to yours,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, Holy – Mass of Christ the Saviour (Dan Schutte)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Please exchange the Sign of Peace with those around you in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

Communion

Music: O Holy Night – Placide Cappeau and Adolphe Adam (1847)

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour.
May we share his life completely
by living as he has taught.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Final Hymn

- O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:**

*O come, let us adore him (x3)
Christ the Lord.*

- Yea, Lord we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:**



The **Offertory Collection** takes place as you leave church – a basket will be available, or you can use the 'Tap & Go' facility. This collection is the main source of income for the parish. Many thanks for your generosity.

Acknowledgements

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